

MENTAL HEALTH PLANNING AND ADVISORY COUNCIL
September 21, 2016 10:00 am to 3:30 pm
Polk County River Place, Room 1
2309 Euclid Ave, Des Moines, IA 50310
MEETING MINUTES

MENTAL HEALTH PLANNING AND ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Teresa Bomhoff	Todd Lange (phone)
Kenneth Briggs Jr.	LeAnn Moskowitz
Jim Chesnik (phone)	Donna Richard-Langer
Jim Cornick	Brad Richardson
Jim Donoghue	Jim Rixner
Kathleen Goines	Lee Ann Russo (phone)
Kris Graves	Dennis Sharp
Julie Kalambokidis (phone)	Rhonda Shouse
Michael Kaufmann	Michele Tilotta
Gary Keller (phone)	Tracy White
Anna Killpack	Kimberly Wilson
Sharon Lambert (phone)	

MENTAL HEALTH PLANNING AND ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

Amber Lewis	Christina Schark
Craig Matzke	DJ Swope
Todd Noack	Jennifer Vitko
Tammy Nyden	

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Barb Anderson	Iowa Department of Education
Theresa Armstrong	Bureau Chief, Community Services and Planning, DHS
Judy Davis	NAMI Iowa/Office of Consumer Affairs
Kim Murphy	Iowa Hospital Association
Carol Police	Individual/Family Member
Peter Schumacher	DHS, MHDS, Community Services & Planning

Chair Teresa Bomhoff called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and led introductions. Quorum was established with fifteen members present and five participating by phone.

Brad Richardson noted that he was not present for the July Planning Council meeting. Teresa Bomhoff noted that Lori Reynolds is no longer a member of the Planning Council. Rhonda Shouse made a motion to approve the July and May meeting minutes as corrected. Dennis Sharp seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Nominations Committee – Ken Briggs

Jim Rixner said the Planning Council had two applications. One from Carole Police as a family member of an adult with a mental illness, and one from Brenda Lechner as a parent of a child with a serious emotional disturbance. Ken said the committee recommended both to fill the vacancies on the Planning Council. There is a remaining vacancy for an “Other person with an interest in mental health”.

Rhonda Shouse asked where the nominees lived. Ken answered that Brenda Lechner lives in the Des Moines area and Carole Police is from southwest Iowa.

Donna Richard Langer moved to approve the nominations. Jim Cornick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Monitoring and Oversight Committee – Jim Rixner

Jim Rixner said they were the only committee that met in August. Jim said the committee used the time to review contracts under the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (Block Grant).

Donna Richard Langer said the committee talked about looking ahead to anticipate the needs of the state, and make recommendations for Block Grant dollars based on those needs.

Jim Rixner said he had gone to a national meeting with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in Washington DC on Block Grant spending, and said it was a productive meeting. Jim emphasized the importance of mental health collaborating with substance use, and said much of the meeting was focused on aligning mental health and substance use services. There was also a lot of discussion on workforce recruitment.

Jim Rixner said Kathy Stone from the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) won a national award for her advocacy in substance use treatment.

Jim Cornick asked if there was discussion of improving the inpatient bed-tracking system. Jim said he would defer to Theresa Armstrong. Teresa Bomhoff said it might be useful to track why individuals are not being admitted to inpatient beds.

Theresa Armstrong said that while there are vacancies in inpatient psychiatric beds, but the issue is finding the right bed at the right time. Theresa said the Department gets the same calls providers and advocates do about finding the right beds to meet the needs of individuals. Often times, individuals are on substances and a hospital does not have the right facilities or staffing at the time to meet their needs.

There was a discussion on inpatient psychiatric beds in Iowa.

Public Safety Workgroup Report – by Brad Richardson

Brad said Craig Matzke had been in charge of the survey in Marshalltown. Brad said there have not been many responses to the survey.

Jim Rixner said his Community Mental Health Center has opened a crisis center in March. Jim said they have serves approximately ninety patients since then

Teresa Bomhoff asked if they have seen an effect on the hospitals in the area. Jim Rixner said he had seen an effect and that many of the individuals they have seen would have been hospitalized otherwise.

Teresa Bomhoff said NAMI is interested in developing an online training module that would build first responders' mental health competency. She said she had met with the Iowa Association of Community Providers (IACP) about a platform they have that may be useful.

Children's Workgroup – Teresa Bomhoff

Teresa spoke about the Children's Mental Health and Well-Being Workgroup. The Department is working on mapping where children's mental health services are already being offered.

Theresa Armstrong said the Department has two Requests for Proposals (RFP) in response to legislation that acted on the recommendations from last year's workgroup. The first one for children's mental health crisis services, and the bids have been awarded to YSS which will be operating in north central Iowa, and Seasons Center, which will be operating in northwest Iowa. The second RFP will be for Learning Labs, which are collaborative efforts looking to meet the needs of children and families more efficiently and effectively. The RFP has been released, and responses are due on October 3.

Update on Michael Dieckmann – Anna Killpack

Anna Killpack said Michael Dieckmann was still in Pottawattamie County jail awaiting a competency hearing. Anna said that she and some of Jackie's family and friends have a meeting scheduled with the Governor, but it was recently postponed.

There was a discussion on mental health treatment for individuals in jails.

Block Grant Committee – Teresa Bomhoff

Teresa Bomhoff asked for volunteers for the Block Grant Committee. She said she had volunteered herself, and had heard from Christina Schark, Sharon Lambert, Kris Graves, Craig Matzke, and Jim Rixner. Ken Briggs and Kim Wilson also volunteered.

Brad Richardson asked what the Block Grant Committee does. Teresa said the committee would meet with Laura Larkin, who writes the Department's application, and provide input on information to be included.

Michele Tilotta said she helps developed the Iowa Department of Public Health's (IDPH) application on the substance use side. Teresa asked if there had been a decision to integrate their applications. Michele said the departments are not planning to integrate applications this year, but do work together closely.

Lobbying Guidelines – Gretchen Kraemer

Gretchen spoke about the duties of the Planning Council. Gretchen said the Planning Council is to review and provide recommendations on plans provided to them by the Department, serve as an advocate for adults and children with mental health needs, and monitor, review, and evaluate the allocation and adequacy of mental health services in the state.

Gretchen said that according to her interpretation of state law, that the Planning Council is an agency of state government as they are established and required by law. Gretchen said that according to Chapter 68B of the Iowa Code, which governs restrictions on lobbying for members of executive branch agencies. The chapter defines a lobbyist as a person representing an organization whose purpose is to encourage the passage, defeat, veto, or modification of legislation, rule, or an executive order. "Lobbyist" does not mean a person whose activities are limited to appearances to give testimony or provide information at the request of the General Assembly or at public meetings. Gretchen said if an executive agency wants to lobby, they must designate a person to represent them, and usually this would be the chair or vice chair. That person would then need to register as a lobbyist. The agency would also have to decide on official positions as well. Gretchen recommended that any decisions be made by putting the topic on the agenda, and voting on an official position.

Gretchen said that members of the Planning Council are welcome to speak to legislators in support or opposition to legislation, but they should not claim to represent the Planning Council while doing so.

Teresa asked if the Planning Council could send letters to the Governor on certain topics and make recommendations. Gretchen said the Planning Council could get that question answered officially by requesting a ruling from the Iowa Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board. Gretchen said she would look to the definition of lobbying which is to encourage the passage, defeat, veto, or modification of legislation, rule, or an executive order. Broad recommendations on issues may not be considered lobbying, but the more specific the input and the more specific the issue, the more likely it is to be considered lobbying activity.

Teresa asked about the logistics of getting the Planning Council's approval before taking action since they only meet once every other month. Gretchen said email votes are permissible. Gretchen said she has seen groups take action, and ratify the action at a later meeting, but recommended against it.

Sharon Lambert spoke about her experience with her grandson.

Iowa Office of Consumer Affairs – Judy Davis

Judy introduced herself and said she worked for a nurse for ten years in mental health.

Judy said NAMI Iowa is the first State NAMI affiliate to fulfill this function, and she thanked Todd Noack for his work with the Office of Consumer Affairs (OCA).

Judy said the OCA is looking to do more public awareness work and work on social media, and have had regular meetings with Karen Hyatt on their vision for the program.

Donna Richard Langer asked about the full time staff they have. Judy answered that the staff share hours between NAMI Iowa and the OCA.

Rhonda Shouse asked if the number for the OCA is changing. Judy answered that it will be the same number as it was before.

Legislative Priorities – Teresa Bomhoff

Teresa spoke about House Record 2646 (Murphy Bill) and its passage through the House of Representatives. Teresa said the companion bill has not been taken up in the Senate. If it is not passed before the session ends, it will need to be re-introduced.

Teresa Bomhoff presented a list of proposed legislative priorities.

Teresa proposed supporting an initiative to provide sustainable long term funding for MHDS Regions. Kim Wilson said that it is difficult for some regions to operate under the current cap which was established in 1996.

Kim Wilson moved to approve this as a legislative priority of the Planning Council. Ken Briggs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Teresa presented a proposal to build mental health workforce through a loan forgiveness program and a central credentialing center. Teresa asked if the Planning Council should recommend that IDPH be charged with developing mental health workforce.

Jim Rixner made a motion to approve the legislative priority. Jim Cornick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Michele Tilotta abstaining.

Teresa Bomhoff presented a proposal to support funding for a children's mental health system.

Anna Killpack made a motion to approve the proposal as a legislative priority. Jim Rixner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Planning Council broke for lunch at 12:05 pm

The meeting resumed at 1:09 pm

MHDS Update – Theresa Armstrong

Theresa said the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) have been chosen. The clinics are Heartland Family Services in Council Bluffs, Season's Center in Spencer, and Abbe Center for Community Mental Health in Cedar Rapids. The clinics are working to get fully certified to be ready if Iowa is awarded an implementation grant. Michele Tilotta spoke about the community outreach that she has been doing in preparation with Laura Larkin, Julie Maas, and Caitlin Owens have been doing to assess the needs in the areas that would be served.

Theresa said there were twenty-four states that were awarded planning grants. There will be eight states who get demonstration grants, but several states have expressed reservations with doing forward due to the cost and requirements of the demonstration.

Theresa said administrative rules on the approval of subacute facilities went into effect as of September 7, and that the Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA) already has one application. According to the rules that are now in effect, the Department will review the application's "resume of care" to evaluate the provider's preparedness to provide the service, if there are any adverse actions that have been taken against the provider, and to ensure that subacute beds will be dispersed across the state.

Teresa Bomhoff asked if the application that had been submitted was for a facility in Waterloo. Theresa Armstrong answered that the provider was in Dubuque.

Anna Killpack asked what the difference is between subacute care and a residential care facility (RCF). Theresa said there would be tighter restrictions under subacute, whereas with an RCF, you can come and go with some restrictions.

Theresa spoke about amendments that were made to administrative rules regarding the Autism Support Program. Theresa said the changes that were made were to comply with changes made in legislation. The maximum age is increasing from nine years to fourteen, the maximum income is increasing from 400% to 500% of the federal poverty limit (FPL), and the maximum cost sharing will increase from 10% to 15%, but only for people above 400% FPL. There is also some money allocated to do workforce development to increase the number of board certified behavioral analysts (BCBA).

Theresa spoke about the Community Connections Supporting Reentry (CCSR) program that is meant to help make connections between the corrections system and the mental health system to help people leaving the corrections system find help with any mental health needs. The second round will be in October and there will be a meeting in each of Iowa's eight judicial districts. Theresa said the Department has learned from feedback from the first round and will include more providers like substance use, employment, housing, and veterans affairs.

Teresa Bomhoff asked about the progress on the MHDS dashboards. Theresa Armstrong answered that Rose Kim, who is the lead on the dashboards, is on maternity leave, but the Department has continued to develop and update information and has brought in others to make sure that the information is being presented in a way that is accessible to the general public.

Teresa Bomhoff asked about the report on MHDS Redesign. Theresa Armstrong answered that there is a report on the progress of the MHDS Redesign being written by the Department to be given to the General Assembly. Theresa said the report will be shared with stakeholders.

Teresa Bomhoff asked about the first quarterly report from the Medicaid managed care organizations (MCO). Theresa Armstrong said that There's a lot of information in the report, and Iowa Medicaid Enterprise is working to reconcile any issues. Teresa Bomhoff expressed concern about some of the information in the report. Theresa Armstrong said there were areas of concern, and more areas where miscommunication between the Department and the MCO may have led to data points not matching up.

There was a discussion about the procedure for addressing urgent member and provider issues.

Theresa Armstrong said the Department is working to reformat a draft of Iowa's Olmstead Plan to make it more accessible to the general public and developing short descriptions on the projects related to Iowa's Olmstead Plan so information is more readily available and accessible.

Continued Discussion of Legislative Priorities – Teresa Bomhoff

Teresa summarized the discussion before lunch, and presented a proposal to develop multiple levels of care for individuals with mental illness outside of the corrections system and jails, increased training for first responders like law enforcement, fire fighters, and paramedics, and the Jackie Wavner. Jim Rixner suggested including funding for mental health and drugs courts. There was a discussion about community treatment for individuals who have acute mental health needs.

Ken Briggs made a motion to approve the legislative priority. Jim Cornick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Teresa Bomhoff presented a proposal to suggest a model state mental health parity law. There was a discussion about mental health coverage in private insurance.

Rhonda Shouse made a motion to approve the legislative priority. Ken Briggs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Teresa Bomhoff presented a proposal to request that legislators form a bipartisan Mental Health Caucus. Ken Briggs spoke about mental health awareness in Iowa.

Rhonda Shouse made a motion to approve the legislative priority. Jim Cornick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

There was no public comment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:16 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Peter Schumacher